A Welcome "MOMENT OF DECISION"

as Southern Florida reaches cultural maturity

A Message from the President of the Historical Association of South Florida

Twenty-three years of planning by this Association culminated on December 2, 1962, in the formal opening of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida and the Caribbean at 2010 North Bayshore Drive, Miami.

Director of the new museum is Mr. Jack E. Porter, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in history. He came to us from the University of Arkansas where he was assistant curator of anthropology.

Southern Florida's young museum has already been visited by hundreds of history students and members of the general public who have found its fast-growing reference library and artifact displays both fascinating and informative.

In his address at the opening ceremonies, Mr. Minor Wine Thomas of the Henry Ford Museum at Dearborn, Michigan, said, "You have added a permanent cultural asset to this city."

As collector and repository of priceless and irreplaceable delineations of the region's history, and as a solidly-founded contributor to the intellectual growth of Southern Florida, the new museum is destined to achieve major importance.

The sponsoring Historical Association, a non-profit organization, receives no city, county or state aid. The museum is entirely dependent upon membership fees and contributions by friends who recognize its worth to the community.

Its future progress presents an opportunity and a challenge to the responsible groups and individuals of Southern Florida.

The Association cordially invites your support of the great work undertaken by the museum. This is a "moment of decision" I am sure you will welcome.

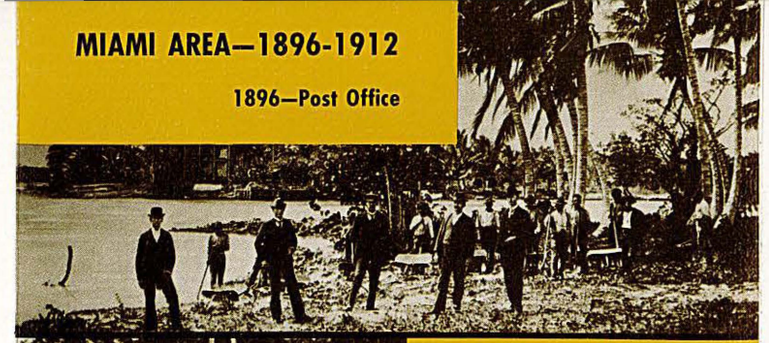
Sincerely,

Shayne E. Hitchens

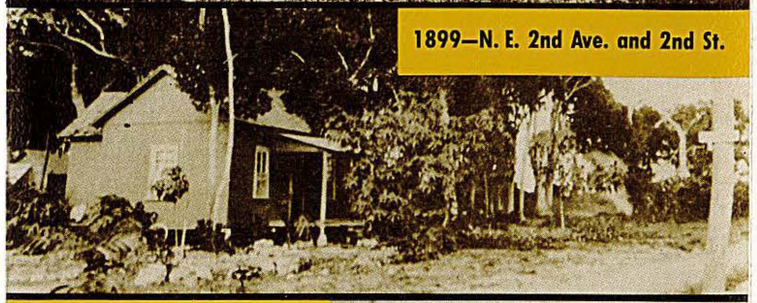
President

MIAMI AREA—1896-1912

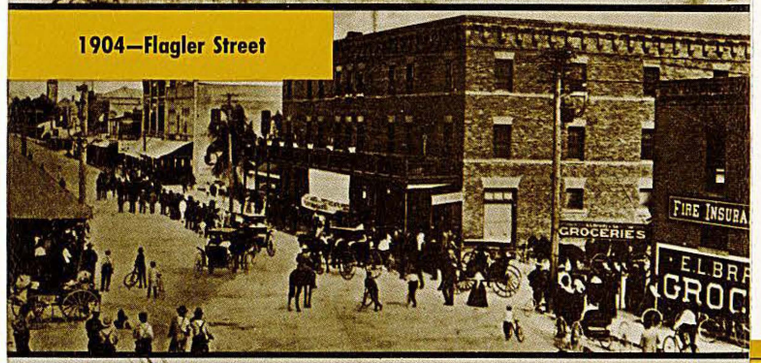
1896—Post Office

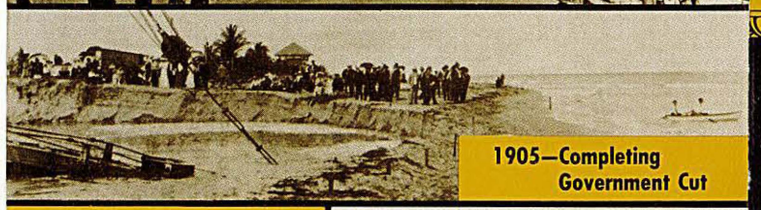


1899—N. E. 2nd Ave. and 2nd St.



1904—Flagler Street

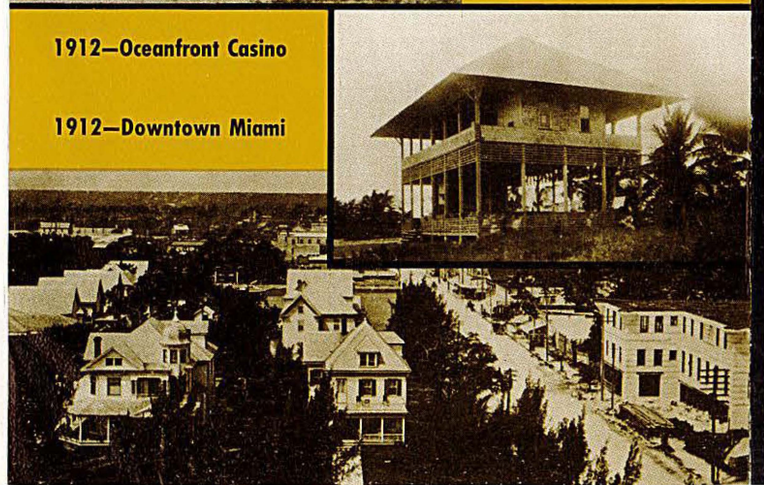




1905—Completing Government Cut

1912—Oceanfront Casino

1912—Downtown Miami



A CHALLENGE and an OPPORTUNITY

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

THE MUSEUM NOW AND IN THE YEARS TO COME

History is today. A million years ago. Last week.

History is everything that ever happened. The long, slow building of a coral reef. A massacre in a lighthouse. A contrived shipwreck. The recovery of a capsule with a man inside, just back from outer space. The magic expansion of a Seminole Indian trading post into a surging metropolis.

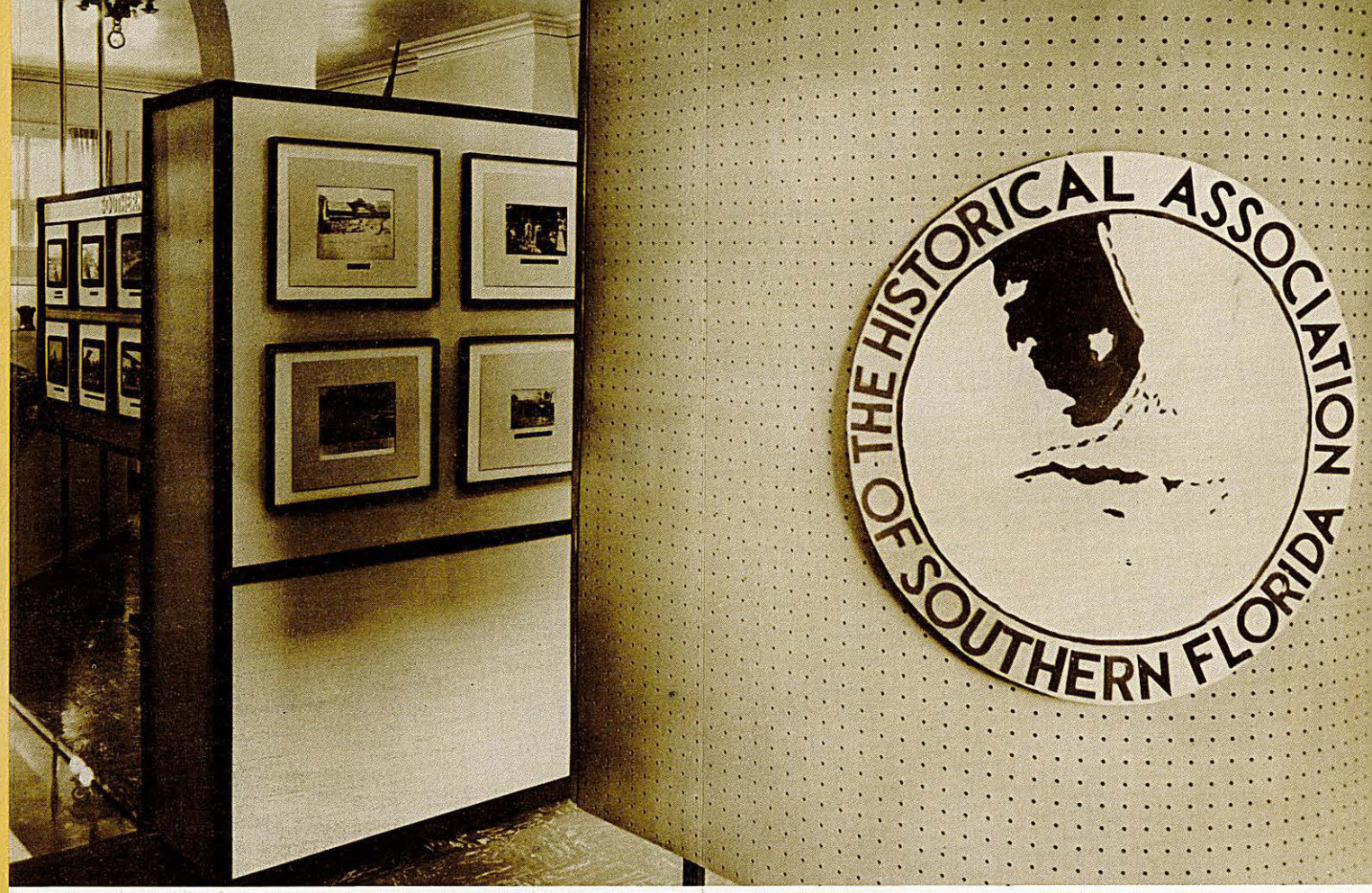
History is Christopher Columbus and Ponce de Leon. Death of the passenger pigeon. Reprieve of the alligator. The ways of life and love in times long past. Yesterday's election.

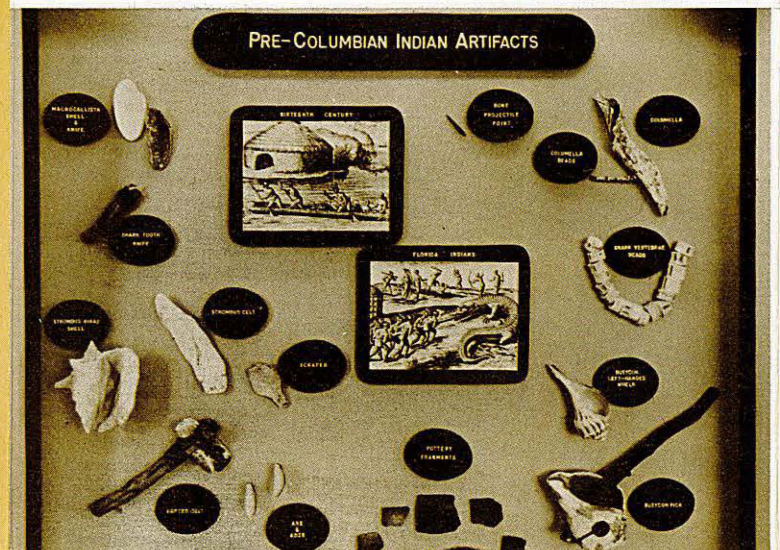
All these are history, set down on paper, scribed on rock, taped for playback, preserved on film . . . illustrated and illuminated by artifacts from the sea floor, the burial mound and the backyard tomato patch.

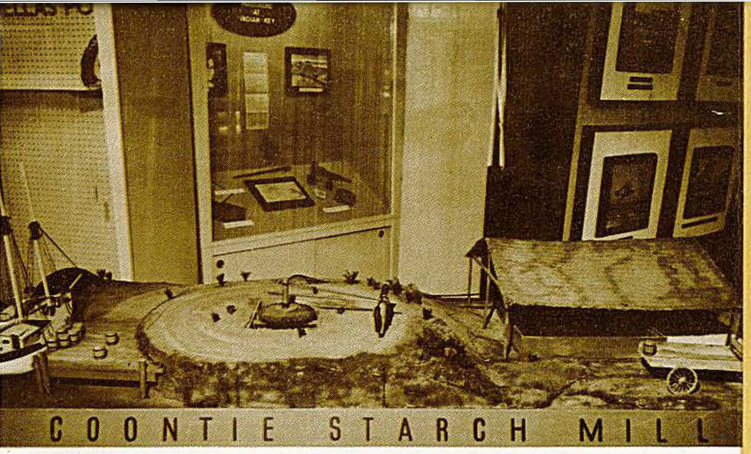
History tells us where we're going by showing us where we've been.

The long history of Southern Florida and the Caribbean is rich in color and action, dating back to the birth of civilization in the Western Hemisphere. Thanks to the work of the Historical Museum, the stuff of which the region's history is made will not be lost to the community and the Nation.

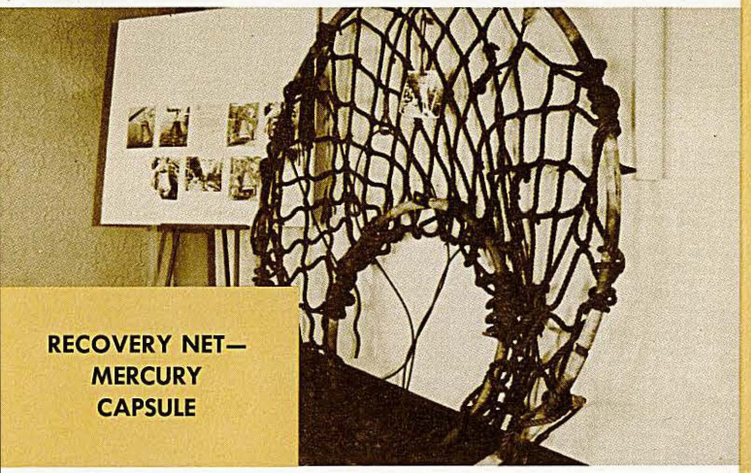
The present museum is Southern Florida's first and only historical museum. It is new, small, just beginning its great and absorbing task. Documents and artifacts are accumulating rapidly. Only the preface of the enlightening story they will eventually tell has







COONTIE STARCH MILL



RECOVERY NET—
MERCURY
CAPSULE

been written. But the chapter headings are coming into focus, the plot unfolding, the action emerging.

Every geographical region points to its museums as pre-eminent among its cultural and educational advantages.

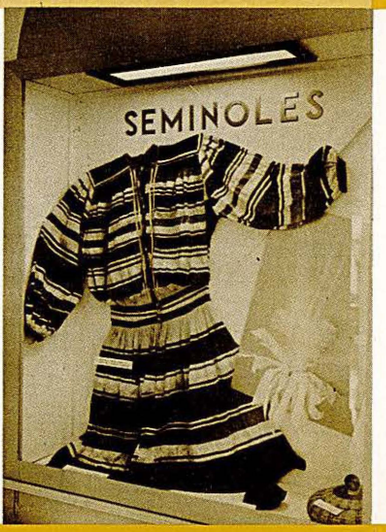
The time is here when Southern Florida must produce evidence of cultural maturity. Corporations considering the establishment of manufacturing plants or other facilities in our state require it. Prospective new residents are strongly influenced by opportunities for cultural advancement.

Thanks to sound planning, obvious need and an auspicious beginning, the Historical Museum is certain to play a major part in providing such opportunities. It is desirable that its services be expanded as rapidly as possible.

Requirements for the immediate future are modest. Contributions to the Museum are tax exempt. It is the hope of the Historical Association of Southern Florida that they will be offered promptly and in sufficient volume to provide these necessary facilities.

MUSEUM FUND OBJECTIVES

1.	**Retirement of Mortgage**	$ 22,231.36
2.	**Research Library Equipment** Microfilm unit and reader. Card catalog files.	3,000.00
3.	**Exhibit and Equipment Shop** Lathe, power saws, drill press, small tools.	1,000.00
4.	**Laboratory Equipment** Microscope, photo enlarger, photo timer, dark room equipment.	1,000.00
5.	**Audio Visual Equipment** Motion and still picture cameras and projectors, Polaroid camera, slide projector, slide cabinet, underwater camera housing.	5,000.00
6.	**Research Foundation** Archaeological, marine, transportation, military and naval, domestic arts and crafts, commercial-industrial, agricultural.	20,000.00
7.	**Office and Printing** Mimeograph, copying machine, electric typewriter, photocopy machine.	4,000.00
8.	**Acquisition Fund**	20,000.00
9.	**Pick-up Truck**	3,000.00
10.	**Air-Conditioning**	7,500.00
11.	**Land** Museum is expected to outgrow present facilities in five years.	20,000.00
	TOTAL	$106,731.36



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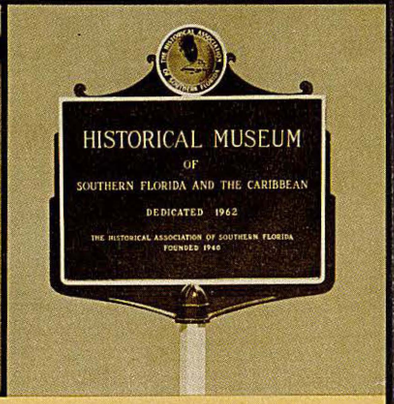
"PRESERVING THE RICHES OF THE PAST . . . FOR THE REGION . . . FOR THE STATE . . . FOR THE NATION"

JACK E. PORTER
Museum Director



PERMANENT MARKER
at the Museum

THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA and the Caribbean

ITS 'FOUNDATION' WAS BEGUN IN 1940

The original roster of the Historical Association lists 23 people who saw the necessity for preserving and recording the documents, landmarks, relics and pictures which tell the story of this region's rich and colorful past.

The first president, himself a maker of history, was George E. Merrick, founder of Coral Gables.

Among others who have since contributed to the progress and development of the Association are Karl A. Bickel, former president of the United Press; Hervey Allen, world-renowned novelist; Edward C. Romph, Miami pioneer and for many years president of the First National Bank of Miami; Dr. Bowman F. Ashe, first president of the University of Miami; Dr. Jay F. W. Pearson, second president of the University, now chancellor; Dr. John C. Gifford, world-ranging horticulturist who brought us the melaleuca and scores of other tropical trees and plants; Wirth M. Monroe, yachtsman and naval architect, member of one of the area's oldest families; Marjory Stoneman Douglas, who wrote *"The Everglades, River of Grass";* and Thomas J. Pancoast, Miami Beach pioneer. Many of these are gone but the work to which they devoted energy, time and love is carried on today by 700 equally dedicated members.

Among them are more than 100 museums, libraries and universities. All members receive *"Tequesta",* the Journal of the Association, published annually.

One phase of the Association's work is a program of preserving the identity of important historical sites. To date, 21 sculptured aluminum and bronze markers have been erected and unveiled. Locations include the 161-year-old Audubon House (Key West), Edison's winter home (Ft. Myers), the Overseas Highway (Key West), Merrick Circle (Coral Gables), Vizcaya (Miami), and the Historical Museum (Miami).

As the Association's purposes became more widely known, literally tons of artifacts, manuscripts, books, old photographs, drawings and other historical material were accumulated. Coins, bottles, books, cannon and other items recovered from sunken ships have been received.

These precious materials, the basic stuff of our history, are being classified, studied, evaluated and recorded.

This work is now going forward at an accelerated pace at Southern Florida's own historical museum, the "foundation" of which was begun more than two decades ago.

"PRESERVING THE RICHES OF THE PAST . . . FOR THE REGION . . . FOR THE STATE . . . FOR THE NATION"